

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

CU-04 NIC-01 RSR-01 /108 W

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R 172300Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4836

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 266

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, CS

SUBJECT: TACK STAYS AWAY FROM PANAMA SOLIDARITY

REF: SAN JOSE 2880

BEGIN SUMMARY: PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TACK DID NOT SHOW UP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA'S PANAMA SOLIDARITY WEEK CELEBRATIONS. IN HIS STEAD CAME DR. JORGE ILLUECA, AN ADVISOR TO THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO REPORTEDLY TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD HERE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA WERE COMING TOGETHER ON THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT PANAMANIAN EMBASSY IN SAN JOSE, DR. JORGE ILLUECA REPORTED BY ATTRIBUTED A NEWFOUND SERIOUSNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA OVER THE CANAL TO THE UNSC MEETING IN PANAMA. HE WAS SAID TO HAVE NOTED THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF ELLSWORTH BUNKER WITH CHIEF NEGOTIATOR WAS AN IMPORTANT INDICATION OF THE

UNITED STATES'S GOOD INTENTIONS. ILLUECA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT A TACK MEETING WITH SECRETARY ROGERS HAD LAID THE
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GROUNDWORK FOR IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE NONAPPEARANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER TACK AFTER REPEATED PRESS REFERENCES TO HIS PRESENCE WAS ATTRIBUTED BY A LEADING FACULTY MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA'S POLITICAL SCIENCE SCHOOL TO PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR PERE HAVING PROMOTED CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN HE COULD DELIVER. IN FACT, AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL, PERE APPARENTLY NOT ONLY DID NOT COORDINATE THE TACK VISIT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT KEPT HIS COUNSEL ONLY WITH A FEW FRIENDLY STUDENT LEADERS, ONE OF WHOM IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION. MOST OF THE FACULTY, OPPOSED TO THEIR SCHOOL BEING USED AS A POLITICAL FORUM, STAYED AWAY FROM CLASSES AUGUST 15 AND 16. THIS, IN TURN, PROVOKED A MAJORITY OF THE SCHOOL'S STUDENTS TO STAGE A BOYCOTT OF ALL CLASSES. THE RESULT HAS BEEN A TEMPORARILY PARALYZED POLITICAL SCIENCE SCHOOL, MANY DISGUSTED STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS AND, AS A RESULT, A BADLY BACKFIRING PANAMA SOLIDARITY WEEK. TACK'S FAILURE TO APPEAR, ILLUECA'S RELUCTANCE, SO FAR, TO APPEAR FOR HIS SCHEDULED UNIVERSITY APPEARANCE, AND HIS MODERATE REMARKS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE HAVE FURTHER DIMINISHED THE RESULTS ANTICIPATED BY THE STUDENT LEADERS.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO TOLD AMBASSADOR VAKY AUGUST 16 THAT HE HAD CONTACTED TACK AFTER LEARNING OF HIS APPARENT PLANS TO VISIT COSTA RICA TO PARTICIPATED IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE SCHOOL'S FORUM (SAN JOSE 2880). FACIO SAID HE ADVISED TACK NOT TO COME FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THAT HE, FACIO, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN TACK DURING HIS APPEARANCES. HE SAID TACK DID NOT REALLY WANT TO COME ANYWAY.
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